

Testimony regarding:

**OPPOSITION TO – HB-6574 – AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL YOUTH CAMPS**

Although this bill may be well-intended, I am concerned that HB-6574 will significantly increase costs for towns and campers, which will price families out of affordable, convenient, and enriching camp programs.

The bill would subject municipal youth camps, which have operated successfully for years, to additional unnecessary state oversight, imposing burdensome staffing and paperwork requirements on municipalities. This would increase costs for campers by as much as \$30 – \$50 per camper, making the program unaffordable for many families.

In addition, the bill would wreak havoc in operating municipal summer camps which begin advertising and enrolling children in February and March. It is also unclear whether the Office of Early Childhood has the staff and resources to process licenses and perform the inspections required under the bill, leaving municipal youth camps in limbo.

Municipal youth camps are already subject to several layers of oversight on the local level, including full-time program coordinators, Park & Recreation directors, HR Directors, Town Managers, Mayors, and First Selectman. Municipal buildings and facilities are also subject to oversight from fire marshals, local/regional health directors, building officials, facilities managers.

**PLEASE OPPOSE HB-6574.**

Paula Cofrancesco  
First Selectman  
Town of Bethany